

Beloved of the Lord:

The Spirit of God continues His description of the Beloved, saying-  
"HIS LOCKS ARE BUSHY AND BLACK AS A RAVEN"-signifying:

1 - THE EMBLEM OF HIS HEADSHIP - As the head of "fine gold" is descriptive of the Deity of Jesus, so in the locks we have the emblem of His humanity. The uncovered head denotes dominion! They are locks of HEADSHIP! The Bride sees in her Beloved His headship over the Church; and also knows "Christ is the head of every man" - 1 Cor.11:3. In His creatorial and ecclesiastical headship she acknowledges her obedience to HIM! Some eternal day, "at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow" (Phil.2:9,10) to HIS universal dominion.

2 - THE BUSHY LOCKS ARE THE EMBLEM OF HIS NOBLE MANHOOD - Never on earth has there been so manly and noble a character as Jesus Christ! All the perfections of noble manhood were manifested in Him. His generosity - He pitied the needy and hungry (Jno.2:1-11;6:3-14). His frankness - To Simon who criticized in his heart the Saviour and the sinful woman at His feet (Lu.7:40). His fearlessness - to Pharisees, Jews and Herod (Matt.23:13;Jno.7:19; Lu. 13:31,32). His firmness - He refused to let men abuse His authority (Matt.21:23,24). His carefulness - not interfering in other men's matters (Lu.12:13,14). His sacrificial spirit - in His personal comfort, to do good for others (Jno. 4:31-34). His concern for His disciples - at the betrayal, saying, "let these men go" (Jno.18:8). Yes, all that is noble, manly and generous, great in human character - was found in Jesus Christ. Others in comparison are but selfish, unmanly, ignoble. Yet happy is the soul that can say - "THIS IS MY BELOVED, THIS IS MY FRIEND". Oh to be more like HIM!

3 - THE BLACKNESS OF HIS LOCKS - "Black as a raven". This indicates the perpetual, eternal youth of Jesus! "Thou art a priest after the order of Melchisedec - THOU HAST THE DEW OF THY YOUTH" - (Psalm 110:3,4). He was cut off in the midst of His years (Psa.102:23,24); but in that youthful maturity He abides forever! His deep agony in Gethsemane brought an angel from heaven to strengthen Him (Lu.22:43). How? Read Psa. 102:24-28. Now, the dark night of Calvary has been exchanged for the bright dew of resurrection glory upon His blessed head! He is an ETERNAL GLORIFIED MAN IN HEAVEN!

4 - ETERNAL YOUTH IS HIS FOREVER - His locks are "bushy", not one hair has fallen from His blessed brow. His locks are "black as a raven" - not one hair has changed in color. He saw no corruption in death; no sickness; no old age; not even the turning of one hair. In His holy manhood His youth is undecayed, abiding for ever!

All others have "grey hairs" here and there. We cannot retain our youth. First, "grey hairs" appear (Gen.42:38); then we "wax old" and ultimately vanish from here. Our youth cannot be recovered. It slips away! Even spiritually we have failure and decay; a cooling of love and devotion to God and men; but not so JESUS! This was never HIS experience. He addressed His Father on the Cross in the darkness - "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken ME? etc" - (Psa.22:1). Yet added - "Thou art my God from my mother's belly" - (Psa.22:10). With the same hope on his mother's breast, He clung to God when on the Cross. His raven locks of youth were unchanged. The love of all others may fade. HIS - NEVER!

5 - THE BELOVED HAS BESTOWED ON ALL HIS FOLLOWERS ETERNAL YOUTH - They have been born anew, everlastingly new, to be forever young! Soon, VERY SOON, their bodies will rise again after the night of death; or changed if living when Jesus comes! HALLELUJAH! (1Cor.15:51-54; 1Thess.4:13,-18). Then with the fresh dew of the resurrection morn, each one, possessing the raven locks of eternal youth, will be in the image of their BELOVED! See - 1 John 3:2. PRAISE HIS HOLY NAME! Does it not appear incredible that others challenge us, saying - "WHAT is thy beloved more than another beloved?" (S. of S. 5:9). With unspeakable joy, the weakest believer may point to Christ, the blessed Bridegroom of the Church, and say - "THIS IS MY BELOVED, THIS IS MY FRIEND"!

ALL EVER GLORIOUS IS MY LORD,  
MUST BE BELOVED, AND YET ADORED!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

*W. Branch*